

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment is being filed in view of the Decision by the Board dated December 10, 2003 concerning related patent application Serial No. 09/534,583. The Board held that Hosozawa does not disclose the limitation of a middle portion of the choke having "a configuration to substantially prevent inflection points along a saturation curve." The Board also held that Hosozawa does not teach or disclose the electrical/magnetic properties of the chokes or ferrite cores of the various embodiment in Hosozawa. The Board further held that Hosozawa in combination with Saitoh and Cameron do not overcome the deficiencies of Hosozawa. In view of the Decision by the Board, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the pending claims that was set forth in the Office Action dated June 19, 2003.

Applicants submit that the Bergman does not disclose the invention. Bergman teaches that core achieve progressive saturation. (Page 2, ln. 122 - Page 3, ln. 22). This progressive saturation is accomplished by varying the air gap from a minimum to maximum size and to reduce the cross-section of the core adjacent the air gap. (Page 2, ln. 130 - Page 3, ln. 13). This reduction in cross-section is accomplished by the use of slots 22. The present invention discloses and defines a choke by the pending claims that avoids saturation of the choke.

Feinberg does not disclose a choke that can be used in association with an arc welder, a deficiency that is similar to Hosozawa. In addition, the transformer designs disclosed in Feinberg are different from the choke defined in the pending claims.

Applicants submit the claims presently pending in the above-identified patent application are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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